

# Hawaii MARINE

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From the depths



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan C. McGinley  
Sgt. Louis Magana plays "Taps" on his bugle during a ceremony dedicating a new flagstaff and display of bronze plaques that honors the 73 Marines who gave their lives and the 15 survivors of the attack on the battleship USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. The memorial lists the names of the 88 Marines stationed aboard Arizona during the attack, includes a piece of steam pipe from the Arizona's original hull, and flies the National Ensign and the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps flags.

## 1/3 leaders conduct survey of Afghan site

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
Combat Correspondent

Nine high-level leaders and key personnel from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, along with one Marine from 3rd Marine Regiment (REIN), recently returned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, after an 11-day tour of Afghanistan. Their whirlwind tour was designed to give the command a first-hand view of what the battalion can expect during their upcoming deployment to that country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Marines, who traveled straight to Afghanistan at the conclusion of 1/3's six-week pre-deployment training exercise in California, finally got back on Hawaiian soil in time to take part in the Marine Corps' 230th Birthday Ball ceremony, Nov. 10, in Honolulu and to celebrate the occasion with their fellow Lava Dogs.

But on Monday, it was back to business as 1/3 completed an after-action report and conducted a briefing on their trip to Afghanistan.

"The purpose of the site survey we conducted was to get a chance to go over there and see the ground, to meet with 2/3 (2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment), and to get the opportunity to take a look at how they are conducting operations," said 1/3 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. James Bierman, a Virginia native. "The primary purpose of the trip was to coordinate with 2/3 on how to conduct the actual relief and the transfer of battle space."

According to 1/3's sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Michael Berg, the site survey conducted during the visit was invaluable.

"To be able to get our feet on the ground in Afghanistan and be able to visit each FOB (forward operating base) that we'll be working out of was very important," said the Plymouth, N.H. native. "We're going to be doing a 'relief in place' of one of our brother battalions, so we wanted to get out there and take a look at what areas of responsibility

See SITE, A-8



Capt. Eric Thompson  
High-level leaders and other key personnel from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, conducted a site survey at various forward operating bases in Afghanistan during an 11-day tour of the country. The survey was conducted in preparation for the Lava Dogs' upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Memorial held for Hawaii native Marine

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
Press Chief

A memorial was held Saturday for Staff Sgt. Daniel Tsue, a Hawaii native who lost his life Nov. 1 when an improvised explosive device exploded while he was conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Tsue was assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine

Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During deployment to Iraq, his unit was attached to 2nd Force Service Support Group, II MEF.

The death of the California-based Marine brought the death toll for individuals with ties to the Hawaiian Island to a total of 72; 44 were Marines.

Tsue, 27, a Moanalua Valley

native, graduated from Kahuku High School and attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo. After one semester of college he decided to join the Marine Corps as an avionics technician for Air Traffic Control in December of 1998.

Tsue later chose to be assigned to Marine Security Guard duty where he aided in protecting U.S. embassies overseas. He served tours in the Middle East and Asia. He later

volunteered and was accepted to into the Explosive Ordnance Disposal military occupational specialty, a job billet that he held until his death.

He was posthumously promoted to staff sergeant due to his outstanding performance of duty while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. His other awards include the Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon and Marine Security Guard Ribbon.

His father Richard Tsue and mother Deborah Takemoto as well as his half sister Joy Takemoto and half brother Alex Takemoto survive Tsue.

## Parachutes, donkeys aid in resupply

U.S. Army drops food and water to Island Warriors

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
Combat Correspondent

**JALABAD, Afghanistan** — Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii use any and all means at their disposal to take the fight to the enemy in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every commander knows the importance of logistics. Being able to resupply a unit is as important as being able to locate the enemy. The terrain in Afghanistan presents unique challenges to operations in that region.

"CDS (container delivery system) drops are vital to conducting operations in Afghanistan," said 1st Lt. Chuck Siedlecki Jr., Golf Company executive officer, from Berlin, N.J. "We have thousands of pounds of food and water dropped from aircraft to us during movements in the mountains. It would be almost impossible to work without it."

This system is used in combat to deliver the

"beans and bullets" to Marines and Sailors in the field. When Marines and Sailors go into the field, they take only what they can carry. An average combat load for a Marine carrying ammunition and two days worth of supplies is roughly 80 to 100 pounds. Marines no longer live off the land or rely on what they need from local nationals, so this limits their ability to conduct operations in areas that are only accessible by foot.

Commanders must consider all available means of delivering supplies and equipment to remote areas. Aerial delivery operations simplify the difficult task of delivering supplies with CDS as the most commonly used method. The Marines rely on aerial resupply as a combat multiplier for efficiency and support of operations. Aerial resupply reduces the time required for transporting the supplies from the warehouse to the field.

"The CDS uses a gravity method to allow the container to roll out of the aircraft. So instead of soldiers inside the aircraft pushing the equipment out, the pilot raises the nose of

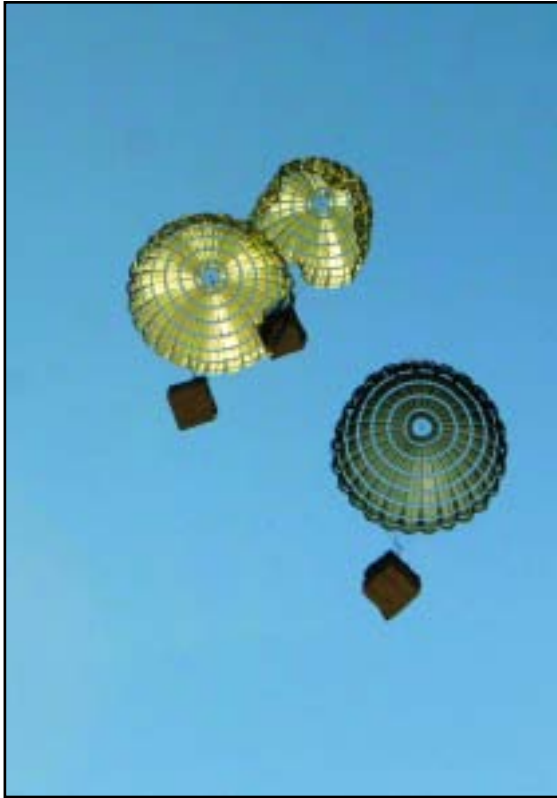
the aircraft so that the containers slide out of the aircraft," said Army Pfc. Jonathan Dawson, parachute rigger, from Phoenix, Ariz. "The chute is used as much to stabilize the load as to slow it down; we pack each load with a type of honeycombed cardboard that disperses the energy of the landing."

The Army uses a one-time-use parachute for most of the drops. Best described as a throwaway parachute, the system consists of a parachute and container that cost about \$500 and has a 2,200-pound capability.

"CDS drops are the only way you can get supplies to Island Warriors out here. You can't get trucks in the back country, and we can drop anything and generally do it within a 400-meter drop zone," said Staff Sgt. Brian L. Stanton, logistics chief, from Chowders, Miss.

Despite the difficulties of vehicle resupply, Marines and Sailors have supplemented CDS drops with another form of transportation —

See RESUPPLY, A-8



Sgt. Robert M. Storm  
Parachutes attached to crates drop from the sky to resupply Marines in the field during Operation Pil in Afghanistan.

# NEWS BRIEFS

### Possible Gas Lane Closures

A gas station canopy project has been under-way since Nov. 7 and is slated to take six to seven months to complete, after construction begins. The canopy will be built in phases, which means that half of the gasoline pumps will be unavailable for consumer use at any given time.

For questions concerning this project, call George Kelsey, MCCS, 254-7689 or Ken Takeya, MCCS, 254-7539.

### Volunteers Needed for USS Arizona Service

In addition to the annual Dec. 7 observance of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy and the National Park Service will also have a separate interment ceremony for a USS Arizona crewmember.

The interment ceremony honors a USS Arizona crewmember in his final resting place aboard the USS Arizona Memorial and is a wonderful opportunity for our military personnel to pay their respects to the very few Arizona survivors.

Approximately 20 volunteers from each branch of service who will be available to observe the event as a member of the audience are needed for this ceremony. This is not a military tasking but a call for volunteers to attend a special ceremony.

Personnel interested in volunteering should contact Grace Hew Len at 473-3958 or 473-2888.

### KOCS Tour of Homes

Visit Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 2 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., and enjoy a select group of homes that are decorated for the holidays and hosted by the Kaneohe Officers' Spouses Club.

The Tour of Homes is open to military and civilians from on and off base. Tickets for the tour are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door.

For more information or to buy tickets, call Jessica Brigrance at 254-1352.

### Post Office Extends Hours Starting Dec. 5

The Base Post Office will have extended hours from Dec. 5 to 23 for the holiday season. Beginning Dec. 5, the Base Post Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Base Post Office will be open Dec. 24 for parcel pickup only.

For more information, contact the Base Post Office at 257-2008.

### MMEA Returns in December

The Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Branch from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, Va., will conduct briefings at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 12 at the base theater and at Camp H.M. Smith on Dec. 13.

About 25 monitors representing more than 100 Marine occupational specialties will be available. Appointments are on a first-come basis will be kept to 10 to 15 minutes to allow maximum participation.

Marines should contact their unit Career Retention Specialist for additional information.

### PWMA Continues to Accept Brick Orders

Orders for inscribed/personalized bricks, to be placed in the Pacific War Memorial's "Walkway of Honor," which is located near the Main/H-3 Gate entrance to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, may be made now through the end of December.

More information is available from the Pacific War Memorial Association by calling 533-3759, or online at [www.pacificwarmemorial.org](http://www.pacificwarmemorial.org).

### Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110

## Hawaii MARINE

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HAWAII MARINE, Box 63062, Building 216,  
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863  
E-MAIL: [EDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM](mailto:EDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM)  
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8835

# In the CG's Mailbox



### HUMMER

Brig. Gen. Steven Hummer:

As both a military spouse and a registered nurse student, I would like to bring forth to your attention a safety issue within our housing neighborhoods. Upon performing a community assessment of safety, I noticed there is a lack of speed limit signs, which are an easy reminder for drivers to slow down. This is an issue that needs to be addressed on two accounts: first, drivers on the Marine Corps base are failing to heed the speed limits thus putting our children who are at play at risk for serious injury, and secondly, this may include animals that may inadvertently escape owner's yards and run into speeding traffic potentially causing a serious accident.

I am requesting that funding be budgeted for speed bumps to be placed in all housing areas. This in turn will be an aggressive solution to drivers to slow down. Other military institutions, such as Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, have speed bumps that are a part of the landscape within the housing community. Another suggestion would be to situate a radar speed monitor within housing so drivers themselves could visually see how fast they were going. Lastly, extra speed limit signs could be put up in all housing areas.

The commanding general invites input from the base community via the CG's Mailbox on the following topics:

- What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing?
- What are we not doing that we should be doing?
- What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address.

E-mail your suggestions to the commanding general at [CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil](mailto:CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil).

If you don't have an e-mail account, you can fax

your suggestions to 257-3290, or you can mail them to:

**Commanding General (Attn: CG Mail)**  
MCB Hawaii  
Box 63002  
MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI  
96863-3002

Your suggestions can also be dropped off in person on base at the Adjutant's Office in Building 216.

*(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)*

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. I await your response.

Sincerely,  
Peggy E. Abbott, Senior Student Nurse at HPU

Dear Mrs. Peggy E. Abbott,

The commanding general asked me to research and reply to your letter, because your concerns fall within my staff responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention to the safety of family and friends in you neighborhood. The base safety office is always concerned about potential traffic issues that may affect the health and well-being of our base community. A traffic safety survey was immediately conducted and the 802 housing area was assessed to have ample speed limit signs. Traffic safety guidelines recommend that signs be appropriately positioned with respect to the location, object, or situation to which they apply. Posting additional signs desensitizes motorists and may be counterproductive.

Speed bumps are not placed in Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, housing

for several reasons. They can and have caused damage to emergency response vehicles. In many areas designers use narrow road configurations to eliminate the need for speed bumps. Low speed bumps were used on a trial basis and found to have little, if any, affect upon speeders.

To help enforce local speed limits, we use a trailer mounted radar speed controlling device, at various traffic "hot spots" throughout the base to include housing. We have placed a semipermanent radar speed controlling device at the high traffic area in front of Mokapu School. We also use military police patrols to set up radar monitoring at various locations throughout the base.

An independent contractor recently conducted a traffic safety survey of the base. Based on the survey's recommendations, some speed limits and signs were adjusted, including those in some of the residential areas.

Mahlao for being concerned enough to let us know of your concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,  
Bo Irvine  
Director, Base Safety

# ACT, SAT prep programs available free for students

**Press Release**  
eKnowledge LLC

**LOS ANGELES** — In association with The Department of Defense , eKnowledge LLC announces that a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players all represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, has sponsored several million dollars worth of \$199 SAT and ACT test prep programs to every family in the U.S. Military, all branches — active or retired, for the school year 2005 to 2006. Specifically, the sponsorship allows any military person (active or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their

lives — for example a military uncle can use his military status to order a program for the students in his extended family back home — any military person can order a program to help any student in his or her life.

To have access to the sponsorship, the person placing the order must be an active duty or retired military member. The DoD has created a secure Web site to quickly confirm a person's military status. Personnel can access the confirmation and order pages through several military-related associations and organizations, including: the Department of Defense MilitaryStudent.org and Military HOMEFRONT Web sites for families, the Military Child Education

Collation, the Military Impacted Schools' Association, and the National Military Families Association all have access to confirm military status and process the order. Programs can be shipped to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the regular purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the shipping and handling. The programs have a one-year license and are intended for the sole individual use of students on their personal home or laptop computer and are not intended for group or classroom instruction through the schools. Requests to receive the

See TEST, A-6

# Base Safety to inspect child car seats

**Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson**  
Combat Correspondent

Base Safety Office officials aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have scheduled a child restraint seat safety

inspection for Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Mokapu Mall on base.

"We're going to set up tents and have 35 technicians to check the seats," said Maria Giovanetty, safety specialist. "We just want the parents to learn how to install the car

seats correctly so their children are safe."

Giovanetty said that these types of safety inspections and informational guidance have been provided to parents for many years and Base Safety intends to continue to provide this service, periodically.



Photo Courtesy of Base Safety Office

Mario Diprete, a safety specialist for Base Safety, checks the belt placement of a child safety seat during last year's child restraint seat safety inspection. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday.

## Weekend weather outlook

### Today



**Day** — mostly to partly cloudy conditions throughout day; easterly winds at 7 to 10 mph with isolated gusts to 15 mph; early morning rain showers

**Night** — mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy overnight; light and variable winds throughout the night; rain showers

**High — 81    Low — 74**

### Saturday



**Day** — mostly to partly cloudy skies throughout the day; easterly winds at 7 to 12 mph; isolated scattered rain showers during the morning

**Night** — partly cloudy skies; light and variable winds

**High — 82  
Low — 73**

### Sunday



**Day** — mostly clear to partly cloudy skies; easterly winds at 7 to 12 mph

**Night** — partly cloudy skies will prevail throughout the night; light and variable winds; rain showers

**High — 82  
Low — 73**

# Fast Ropin'

## Lima Company descends to qualify for MSE

Story and Photos By  
**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**

Combat Correspondent

As workup training for their role as 3rd Marine Regiment's Marine Security Element, Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, went through fast rope qualifications Nov. 7.

This is a prequalification for the Marines — to fast rope out of helicopters once they undergo training at Twentynine Palms, Calif., said 1st Lt. J.P. Sienicki, executive officer, Lima Company, 3/3.

"The fast roping is only one of the qualifications we need to complete before becoming part of the MSE," said the Long Valley, N.J. native. "Non-lethal weapons instruction and shot gun training are also parts of upcoming training. We are trying to bang out all of the qualifications before going to Twentynine Palms."

Each Marine fast roped from the tower four times; each time the level of difficulty increased, said Sgt. Chet E. Thomas, squad leader, 1st squad, 1st platoon, Lima Company, 3/3.

"The first time, no gear is carried by the Marine," said the Tallahassee, Fla. native. "The second time, the Marine must lock out on the rope."

Locking out is when the Marine stops himself from completely descending to the ground and then continues and lands safely on the ground.

The third descent requires Marines to don a flak jacket and Kevlar, while the fourth and final fast rope requires Marines to descend with all their gear and packs. With all that gear plus a pack, the Marine is carrying roughly 60 pounds of added weight.

"We usually do this once a year, or as a pre-qualification for a helo," said Thomas.

"I'm pretty excited about this hot training."

There were approximately 76 Marines training in the platoon that was comprised of Weapons Platoon and company elements. This also included two machine gun teams, a combined anti-armor team section, and a scout sniper team.

"We've been doing a lot of training like MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain), convoy operations, infantry patrols, squad rushes, and a lot of hiking," said Pfc. Josh R. Sonnier, squad automatic weapons gunner, 1st squad, 2nd platoon, Lima Company, 3/3. "This is the first type of training to prepare for the MSE."

The Sweetlake, La. native said he joined the infantry to one day get the opportunity to deploy to Iraq.

"I've been wanting to go since I was about 14 years old," said the 18-year-old. "I'm finally getting the opportunity now, and I'm happy that I get to do it with Lima Company. The senior Marines are great leaders, and they're teaching us everything we need to know to stay alive out there."

Lance Cpl. Bryan E. Cook, machine gunner, Weapons Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fast ropes down a wall. Fast roping is one of the qualifications Lima Company must complete in order to become a Marine Security Element.

Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, descend from a tower at Landing Zone Boondocker to complete one of the qualifications to become a Marine Security Element, Nov. 7. The Marines are preparing for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

A Marine uses his hand for support as he lands hard on his feet after descending the tower at Landing Zone Boondocker, carrying about 60 pounds of added weight. The 3/3 Marines are preparing to be part of a Marine Security Element to deploy to Iraq.



# On the skyline ... with 1/3

by Sgt. Joe Lindsay

*On the Skyline is a weekly column written by Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Combat Correspondent Sgt. Joe Lindsay. Lindsay has recently returned to K-Bay with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine*

*Regiment, from California, where they trained to prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*

# Pro mountain biker trades in wheels for rifle, Corps



Every Marine who has ever served has made some type of sacrifice in order to wear the “Eagle, Globe and Anchor,” but these sacrifices aren’t always paid in the form of sweat from countless humps and physical training sessions, neither are they from the shedding of blood on the battlefield, nor from the feelings of loneliness during long separations from family and friends while deployed.

Sometimes the sacrifices made are simply the other opportunities that were passed up in order to join the Corps. Still, it can be argued that most Marines, once they become part of the “brotherhood,” would not change their decision to join for anything, no matter what life they left behind to do so.

One such Marine is Lance Cpl. Sean McDaniel, a rifleman assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who, in a previous life, was a professional mountain-bike rider.

“I raced for the ‘No Breaks Racing Team’ on the West Coast circuit for three years before joining the Corps,” said McDaniel, who had 15 national sponsors at the height of his mountain bike-racing career. “It was a good life, but a lot of pressure. The sponsors took care of all our travel expenses: food, hotels, bikes and everything like that, but the bottom line is you’ve got to win or place high to make any decent money,” admitted the Tucson, Ariz. native.

As a coveted member of one of the top mountain bike-racing teams on the West Coast, McDaniel also had to deal with the pressures of making the team every year.

“Just like any sport, there are younger guys coming up, trying to prove themselves. Just like I was my first year,” remarked McDaniel. “When one guy comes up, that means another guy has got to come down. There’s a lot of competition. Once you make the team, you’ve got to stay on top of your game.

“Fortunately, for three years, I got to experience a life that not too many people get a chance to. I’ve still got the bug and the fire to compete on that level, but I felt a strong sense of duty to serve my country — especially after



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

**Lance Cpl. Sean McDaniel, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rifleman from Tucson, Ariz., was a professional mountain-bike rider for the “No Breaks Racing Team” before joining the Marine Corps. He is currently slated to deploy with 1/3 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

September 11 — so I’ve never regretted my decision to join the Marine Corps.”

McDaniel said there are a lot of parallels between being a professional athlete and a Marine rifleman.

“Infantry Marines are the pro athletes of the

military,” commented McDaniel. “Just like pro athletes, they put in countless hours honing their skills, training as a team, and keeping in top physical shape. Also, they study the enemy who is the opponent. But there is a lot more at stake being a ‘grunt’ (infantry Marine) than there is being a pro athlete. When you are a Marine, the consequences are life and death. You can never have a bad day, and you constantly have to be focused. The consequences are just too great. Marines are athletes, but war is not a game.”

McDaniel recently returned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, after training for six weeks with 1/3 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., and the Marine Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., in preparation for 1/3’s upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I’m glad to be going,” said McDaniel. “This is the reason you join the Corps.”

Though McDaniel said he is “gung-ho” to serve in Afghanistan, he readily admits that after his enlistment is up, he plans to resume his mountain-biking career and also plans on trying to become a professional motorcycle racer.

“I’m going to get back on the mountain-bike circuit, preferably with ‘No Breaks’ again, but I’ve also got my eye on branching off into professional street-bike (motorcycle) racing,” said

McDaniel, who has previous motorcycle racing experience at the amateur level. “It’s really hard to describe the feeling you get on the race track, going a 180 miles per hour. I can definitely say that it’s addictive. I like things that move fast.”

Perhaps that part of McDaniel’s personality that feels “the need for speed” is why he has seemed so adapted for the current billet he is holding as a battalion mail clerk.

“People don’t always realize it, but a mail clerk can make or break a hearty portion of morale in a unit, especially during a deployment,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Kralovec, 1/3 adjutant and a native of Fairfax, Va. “Having a squared away mail clerk with an eye for attention to detail is vital. Lance Corporal McDaniel is doing a great job, and he attacks each mission every single day.”

Staff Sgt. Philip Myers, 1/3’s administrative chief for Headquarters and Service Company, said he appreciates the hard work McDaniel and the other mail clerks are doing.

“Mail clerks need to be independent, be proactive, and take initiative,” said the Ewa Beach, Hawaii, native. “Lance Corporal McDaniel exhibits all those traits in the current billet he is holding. He’s a good Marine, and I respect the fact that he has dreams for the future and, more importantly, a plan. I have no doubt he will follow through on those plans and return to being the best professional mountain-bike racer he can be. If anything, he might even be better, even with the layoff, because of all the discipline the Marine Corps has provided for him. Skills learned in the Marine Corps can transfer to just about anything you can imagine.”

For his part, McDaniel said his priorities are serving out his enlistment with honor, using the skills he has learned as an 0311, Marine rifleman in Afghanistan and making sure that all the Marines in 1/3 get their mail from loved ones as fast as is humanly possible when they are deployed,

And if McDaniel has anything to do with it, that will be at about 180 miles per hour.

# MMEA monitors to visit MCB Hawaii mid-December

## Master Sgt. Patrick O. Buckley

Career Retention Specialist

The Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Branch from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, Va., will arrive on Oahu for their annual visit Dec. 12 and 13. The purpose of the visit is to entertain duty assignment requests from enlisted Marines and their spouses and also to provide educational briefs aimed at enhancing Marines’ career opportunities.

“It’s important for Marines take their spouses to meet with their monitor face to face so that the Marine and monitor can plan not only the Marine’s future assignment, but consider the family’s as well,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Joe Elisara, career retention specialist noncommissioned officer-in-charge for U.S. Marine Force Pacific. “Taking advantage of this opportunity will be beneficial to the Marine’s family because they can both voice their preferences, concerns, issues, etc., in person vice e-mail or telephone.”

During their personal interviews, each Marine and spouse can request their next duty assignment, according to Elisara. The monitors look at the Marine’s preferences, or “wish list,” along with other factors, the biggest being the needs of the Marine Corps. The monitor then assigns the Marine and family to the best possible assignment.

The Marine should voice special circumstances, issues and concerns such as having a family member with special needs, or his desires to attend a special school or training, etc.

“Sitting down with the monitor personalizes the long list of names they see on their rosters day in and day out,” explained Sgt. Robert Byrne, career retention specialist for Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

This visit is part of the worldwide tour that MMEA Marines, or monitors, conduct every year to communicate with enlisted Marines and their families, according to Staff Sgt. Derald Nash, NCOIC of 3rd Marine Regiment Career Planning Program.

Almost all Marines can speak with their Military

Occupation Specialty monitors, and Special Assignment monitors who conduct interviews at the bachelor officers’ quarters Conference Room on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, on either of the two days. About 25 monitors represent-

ing more than 100 MOSs will be available.

Elisara added that appointments on a first-come basis will be kept to 10 to 15 minutes to allow maximum participation, and again, spouses are highly encouraged to accompany

their Marine during the interviews and briefs.

There will be briefings on Dec. 12 at the Base Theater, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Dec.

See MMEA, A-5



Photo Courtesy of Sgt. Cooper Evans  
Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Jeff Etheridge, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, baptizes a Marine while on deployment to Afghanistan.

# Baptisms still performed in combat zone

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**JALABAD, Afghanistan** — Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii conducted a baptism in Jalabad, Afghanistan, last month.

Baptism is an act of obedience that follows acceptance of the Lord and portrays, symbolically, the washing away of sins. The act is considered a way of expressing what has happened spiritually and a rejection of the individual's old life.

A water baptism calls for total immersion instead of sprinkling. To baptize something in water means to put it underwater. The Greek word "baptism" means to immerse, submerge and emerge. For that reason, in the biblical sense, to baptize a person in water literally means to put that person wholly underwater.

"When I got out here, everything clicked, and I realized that I wanted to get baptized. I've been a Christian my whole life, but out here in a combat zone, it became clear, and I figured it was finally time to do it," said Cpl. Justin D. Carter, machine gunner, Santa Clarita, Calif.

"Plus, how many people can say that they were baptized in Afghanistan," said Carter, laughing.

While the baptism itself does not bring salvation, salvation inspires the water baptism and is done after a person is "born again." Water baptism for Christians symbolizes death, burial and renewal with Christ. Baptism is a symbolic burial, by which Christians declare that they have died and are now beginning a new life, in Christ.

According to the Bible, Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized, because he wanted to take the sins of the world with him at his death. The sins would be washed away by God, for those who put their trust in him.

While some Marines had the desire clarified to them because of the unique situation combat brings, others simply felt that the time had come to finally follow the Bible's teachings.

"I had a chance to be baptized before, and I let the chance escape me. Out here, I remembered that I hadn't done it, and I didn't want to lose the chance again," said Sgt. Jeremy D. Sadler, network administrator, from Newark, Del. "I've been a Christian for eight years, and since the Bible said to do it, I've felt that I've been sinning by not following through."

The battalion chaplain, Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Jeff Etheridge, conducted the baptisms.

"Holding baptism services

in Afghanistan has been one of the highlights of our deployment for me," said Etheridge. "In faith, I packed some field baptism liners, but the Lord provided a natural baptistery for us at a spring located on the base. It is a great honor for me to baptize these men, to see them be faithful and obedient. God's hand of protection has been clearly evident on many occasions. I think almost all of us have grown spiritually during our time in Afghanistan."

## 'Oldest Marine' passes



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner  
Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, former commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, presents the first piece of cake to 93-year-old Vivian L. Thompson, the oldest Marine present during the Marine Corps Cake-Cutting Ceremony, Nov. 10, 2004. Thompson passed away just a few days prior to this year's celebration. A memorial service was held for her Tuesday at Pohai Nani Good Samaritan Retirement Community. Thompson served in the Marine Corps during World War II from 1943 until 1945. Thompson, a writer of children's books, has been hailed as the oldest Marine present in the past three MCB Hawaii Marine Corps Birthday celebrations.

### MMEA, From A-4

13 at Camp H.M. Smith, in which MMEA will provide information, such as performance evaluation, career development updates, and Marine Security Guard Duty, for the Marines in attendance.

During and after the briefings, the monitors will be at their interview site, Dec. 12 and 13 at the BOQ Conference Room to meet with any Marines and their spouses who want a face-to-face interview with their monitor. Marines should contact their unit Career Retention Specialist for

additional information.

Meeting with the monitors usually clears all pertinent questions Marines and their spouses have, but MMEA is aware that not everyone will be seen during base visits. Therefore, Marines can still contact their monitors via e-mail or telephone.

To read the Hawaii Marine online, visit [www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil).



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Postcards from the front

Compiled by Sgt. Robert Storm



*Editor's note: Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are currently deployed to Afghanistan from their home base at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Recently, Sgt. Robert Storm, a Marine Corps combat correspondent, gathered notes and took photographs of K-Bay Marines, which Hawaii Marine is proud to share.*



Maj. James Migletz,  
S-5 Officer, 2nd Battalion,  
3rd Marine Regiment

**“To Diane, Jimmy and Miranda: I miss you all; will be home soon. Thank you for the support and have a safe and happy holiday.”**



Sgt. Stephen L. Targos,  
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine  
Regiment

**“All the letters from my loved ones at home encourage and inspire me. Honey, I love you. You are my motivation that keeps me going.”**

Hawaii has own traditions behind day of thanks

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The thought of Thanksgiving probably reminds most people of feasting on turkey, potatoes, pies, and many other filling, delicious delights. It also probably involves cooler weather, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and, of course, lots of football.

In Hawaii, the Thanksgiving holiday is much the same — minus, of course, the fact that the parade is on at a different time, and it’s not exactly sweater weather. Also, the dishes that are served on Thanksgiving Day in Hawaii can differ from the traditional feast that most have come to know.

To begin with, the first official Thanksgiving Day celebration in Hawaii has never actually been recorded. It is believed, though, that it took place in Honolulu and was held among the families of the American mission who were from New England, according to historical records.

Ancient Hawaiians have always celebrated the bounty of the harvest season, which they call, the Makahiki season. The Makahiki season was not only a time for feasting, but

also a time for sports competitions and religious activities.

As a final finish to the season, Hawaiians would hold a huge feast called, “ka aha aina piha makahiki,” meaning the feast to have fullness for the year. Some of these feasts would last for up to one week.

The Hawaiian Thanksgiving tradition continues on today with what is known as the Hawaiian luau. The name, luau, comes from the taro leaves that are used to decorate and flavor the foods of the feast.

At the luau, pupus, or appetizers, are generally served as poke, a chilled salad of raw fish. Taro is mashed into poi, and even a sweet

Maui onion can make a good side dish in Hawaii.

The main dish is referred to as Kau Kau, which is oftentimes a kalua pig. Sometimes, if space is available, the pig is prepared in the same manner in which the ancient Hawaiians prepared it — the whole pig is slow cooked by covering it with hot coals in an underground pit along with koa wood, banana stalks and leaves, called an imu.

However, for those who opt for the conventional oven, there are many recipes for oven-style kalua pork and other delicious pork recipes for a traditional Hawaiian Thanksgiving feast.



A fully cooked pig is removed from the imu during a luau at the Hale Koa Hotel. Kalua pig is among many traditional Hawaiian holiday dishes.

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

TEST, From A-2

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About victory sports group

The Victory Sports Group represents NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players. It is the sports agency section of the Enslin, Pinkston and Courtney, LLP law firm — an international, full-service sports agency/firm. Some of the football players who have contributed to this effort are Ahmaad Galloway, Scott Young, Garrick Jones, Corey Williams, Jon Bradley, Jason Radar, Dominique Dunbar, Bradly Chavez, Kelly Johnson, Elgin Hicks, Kevin Breedlove and Tim Blackwell.

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# Food comes second on Thanksgiving

**Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Over many years, Thanksgiving has become a holiday where friends and family get together to continue the ongoing tradition of sitting around a big dinner table, eating turkey and watching football games on TV. Although this is a typical scene throughout America, the true meaning of the holiday still shines through as grace is said before that first bite of turkey, stuffing, or honey-baked ham.

For some military members and their families, this scene may be only an illusion that they can only dream about because of their constant deployments and being assigned to a duty station that may be thousands of miles away from their loved ones.

“The most important thing on holidays is definitely being with family,” said Cpl. Josh S. Wartchow, squad leader, Lima Company, 3rd

Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “I was deployed to Okinawa, Japan, a few Thanksgivings ago, and we had a guy make us a big dinner with Jambalaya and a lot of other food,”

Wartchow said that even though they had a large dinner, it still wasn’t as good as it would have been had had his Thanksgiving meal back home with his family.

“I haven’t gotten to do the whole big dinner with a turkey and stuffing in a long time,” admitted Wartchow, a Doylestown, Pa. native. “That really doesn’t matter to me though, just being with my wife this Thanksgiving is going to be better than anything. The big feast is just a plus.”

Those who celebrate Thanksgiving give thanks to a number of different things during this holiday — mostly to friends and family.

“While I was deployed to Afghanistan we had no way of buying or getting hygiene gear

or any personal supplies, so we pretty much depended upon people back home to send us the supplies we needed,” said 1st Lt. Justin M. Bellman, commanding officer, Weapons Company, 3/3. “The letters and packages would always boost morale for the Marines, so I think we were all thankful for that.”

Bellman said that when his Marines received mail, they always seemed to be in better spirits and when they received these packages from family and friends, they always remembered to thank them, in prayer.

“Whenever it was my turn to say grace, I would usually give thanks to God for putting me on this earth,” said Cpl. Steve Mercer, fire team leader, Lima Company, 3/3. “My parents are also always on the top of my list — I mean, without them I wouldn’t be here and wouldn’t be the person I am today.”

For many Marines, the holiday season is the worst time to be deployed or away from family

and can be a lonely and stressful time.

“I really get homesick when the holidays roll around, and I know I’m so far away from everyone,” said Cpl. Anthony Moran, fire team leader, Lima Company, 3/3. “It’s just not the same as it used to be when I was a kid.”

Mercer said he remembers times when he would be around a table with his whole family, spending quality time together.

“We must have had a ton of food on the table, and I would eat it so fast that I could barely taste anything going down,” said Wartchow. “After we ate our feast — that seemed like it would never end — I immediately wanted to take a nap when we were through, but would usually watch football with the family.”

Wartchow said that his favorite Thanksgiving Day dish was the turkey and stuffing.

*See **THANKSGIVING**, A-8*

## Turkey day history dates back to feast in 1600s

**Pfc. Edward C. deBree**  
*Combat Correspondent*

*Almost four centuries ago, the pilgrims celebrated a harvest feast to thank God after suffering through a brutal winter. President George Washington proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, and President Lincoln revived the tradition during the Civil War, asking Americans to give thanks with ‘one heart and one voice.’ Since then, in times of war and in times of peace, Americans have gathered with family and friends and given thanks to God for our blessings.*

**— President George W. Bush, 2004 Thanksgiving Proclamation**

During the month of November, families gather around the dinner table to indulge in the Thanksgiving Day feast, but there is more to

Thanksgiving than just eating turkey — Thanksgiving is about the memory of how the pilgrims survived their first winter in America, and how the Native American Indians helped the pilgrims harvest food after a harsh winter.

When the pilgrims first arrived on Plymouth Rock, they had no shelter and no farmlands. When the first winter came, more than half of them died due to malnutrition and sickness. Then in March, the pilgrims met their first Native American Indian, Samoset, who learned English from fishermen who traveled by the coast. On one of Samoset’s visits with the pilgrims, he brought Squanto, a Native American Indian who spoke better English than he spoke, and thus began the relationship between the

pilgrims and Native American Indians. It was the Native American Indians who helped the pilgrims plant their crops and taught them how to harvest their bounty for the next season. From this harvest came the food for the first Thanksgiving Day feast.



sauce. As for pumpkin pie — there was no recipe in existence at the time of the first Thanksgiving Day feast.

In fact, according to historical records, some items that might have been seen on the table of the first Thanksgiving Day feast would have been lobster, eel, goose, duck, crane, wild turkey, onions, pumpkin, peas, grapes, and even seal.

It wasn’t until Oct. 11, 1782, that the President of the Continental Congress, John Hanson, made a proclamation that on Nov. 28, the states should: “interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of Thursday, the 28th day of November next, as a day of solemn Thanksgiving to God for all his mercies.”

In the 1940s, after the Constitution was created, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed that the third Thursday of November should be celebrated as Thanksgiving; and in 1941, Congress passed a joint resolution to officially celebrate Thanksgiving on the third Thursday of November.

SITE, From A-1

they’ve got out there and what we’ll be taking over.

“Getting to talk to the Marines out there, taking digital photos and bringing all that information back here where we can sit down with the battalion and put on a good brief and give them a first-hand report, like, ‘Hey, this is where you’re going to be living, these are the areas where you’re going to be working out of, and these are the mountain ranges we’re going to be patrolling,’ is extremely beneficial.”

Company Commander Capt. Eric Thompson, Weapons Company, 1/3, said he couldn’t agree more.

“It was a very enlightening experience,” said the San Diego native. “It was my first time in country. The mood and climate I sensed was mostly positive towards Americans and the Marines. The Afghan people would smile and wave to us as we went by, and the towns we saw all seemed favorable to our presence.

“For the battalion as a whole, we got to see how we’re conducting interoperability with the U.S. Army, to see the communications links, and to go over the approval process to get missions or aircraft support approved. I was also able to access how fire is being delivered by artillery, aircraft and mortars as well as to access how non-kinetic forces, meaning information operations, are being dealt with in Afghanistan right now.”

Thompson also said that the site survey was particularly important to him from a company commander perspective.

“For me, the most important thing to take away from the trip was to be able to access the roads and the absolute heinous driving conditions over there that we’re going to be dealing with,” remarked Thompson. “Also, since we will be largely foot mobile, it was important to see the terrain first hand and to understand how brutal it actually is over there and how difficult it can be to close with and destroy the enemy in those conditions.”

According to Bierman, the situation is made even more difficult due to the diversity of the bad guys.

“It’s not just the ACM (Anti-Coalition

Militia) that we’re having to deal with,” commented Bierman. “There’s a lot of criminal activity out there, valley to valley, and the enemy situation is diverse. Still, one of the key things I want to emphasize is that we are winning this war. We saw with our own eyes the continued positive development of the Afghan Army and Afghan police. The attitude of the Afghan people towards us seems very positive.”

For his part, Master Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Craig, 1/3 operations chief, said the war in Afghanistan is unlike anything most of the Marines have ever experienced before.

“It’s tricky in Afghanistan,” said the Buffalo, N.Y. native. “You might go weeks with nothing and all of a sudden, ‘BOOM!’ We have got to start sharp and never be complacent. No matter how smooth a patrol might seem, we need

to be on alert at all times, because attacks can happen in an instant. We will be on top of our ‘A’ game, I can promise you that.”

Despite the dangers inherent in combat, Craig said the Marines are making a positive difference in the lives of the Afghan people.

“I spoke with many Afghans during the trip, and what struck me most is how similar they are to us,” reflected Craig. “They just want to be able to take care of their families, to provide for their children, and to make a better life for themselves. They want to see their kids get an education and go on to do better things, just like any parent in the U.S. But, because of what they’d been through under the last regime, all of that was impossible for them. It was all about just surviving. Now, because of our presence, hope is starting to come back to these people.”



Capt. Eric Thompson

Key personnel from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and others from 1/3, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, conducted a site survey at various forward operating bases in Afghanistan. The 1/3 representatives conducted this 11-day tour of the country in preparation for the Lava Dogs’ upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

THANKSGIVING, From A-7

“There’s so many different ways we would have turkey, it was never the same,” said Wartchow. “So pretty much being with all my friends and family and then having an awesome meal is what Thanksgiving is all about. Being with family is awesome, and I think people should cherish those times with them, because if they ever get deployed or sent somewhere they won’t be able to have those times anymore then they will regret not taking advantage of them.”

Bellman said, after deployment he is always grateful to make it home safe and in one piece without being injured.

“We were lucky and only had two casualties in our company, so we’re thankful that we didn’t have more,” said Bellman. “There were many situations where a lot more of our Marines could’ve been injured or killed, which leads me to believe that someone a lot higher than us was looking over us to make sure America’s Battalion came home safe.”

RESUPPLY, From A-1

donkeys. Donkeys can carry a third of their body weight, so they are beneficial when large amounts of water and food have to be transported.

“Using donkeys to help us carry water and chow was a big asset. Not only did the donkeys help the Marines and Sailors carry supplies over steep, broken terrain, but it helped the local economy when we rented them out,” said Siedlecki, laughing. “Without them the Marines and Sailors would have had a much harder time.”



Mules help carry supplies over the difficult terrain during Operation Pil. Thirty-eight mules were used to resupply the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Sgt. Robert M. Storm

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the Quarter, 4th Quarter

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MAG-24

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Shirley Alexander, CSSG-3

Pahonua Jr. Enlisted

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Rainbow

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Command BEQ of The Quarter

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